

What is claimed is:

1. A magnetic recording medium comprising:
an elongated nonmagnetic support; and
5 a single-layered magnetic layer having an orthorhombic structure formed on a main surface of said nonmagnetic support by a vacuum thin film deposition technique,
wherein an H_{cmax}/H_{c0} ratio is not greater than 1.2,
10 where H_{cmax} is a maximum value of a coercive force of said magnetic layer which acts in a plane perpendicular to said magnetic layer and containing a longitudinal direction of said magnetic recording medium, and H_{c0} is a coercive force of said magnetic layer which acts in the
15 longitudinal direction of the magnetic recording medium.
2. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1,
wherein said coercive force H_{c0} is not less than 100 kA/m.
- 20 3. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1,
wherein $M_r \cdot \delta$ which is a product of a remanent magnetization M_r and a film thickness δ of said magnetic layer is within a range expressed by Expression (1), and
a signal recorded in said magnetic layer is reproduced by
25 slide-contact movement of a magnetoresistive magnetic head with respect to said magnetic recording medium:
$$12 \text{ (mA)} \leq M_r \cdot \delta < 30 \text{ (mA)} \dots (1)$$
4. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1,
30 wherein $M_r \cdot \delta$ which is a product of a remanent magnetization M_r and a film thickness δ of said magnetic

layer is within a range expressed by Expression (2), and
a signal recorded in said magnetic layer is reproduced by
slide-contact movement of a giant magnetoresistive
magnetic head with respect to said magnetic recording
5 medium:

$$3 \text{ (mA)} \leq Mr \cdot \delta < 12 \text{ (mA)}. \dots (2)$$

5. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1,
wherein a plurality of tracks are arranged in parallel
10 with one another in the longitudinal direction, and
recording and reproduction of signals is performed by a
linear system.

6. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1,
15 further comprising a protective layer formed on said
magnetic layer.

7. A magnetic recording medium according to claim 6,
wherein said protective layer includes a diamond-like
20 carbon (DLC).